

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 12

BOSTON GLOBE
18 MAY 1982

Investigation of pro-Nazis defended

By Joan Vennoch
Globe Staff

The director of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) said yesterday that investigations by his staff into Nazi collaborators who have been hiding in the United States were never "stymied or interfered with" by any other federal agency.

But the director, Allan A. Ryan, Jr., declined to comment on whether he knew that information the Justice Department had received was withheld from Congress by any federal agencies such as the FBI or Department of Defense.

John Loftus, a former staff attorney who worked under Ryan, said on a Sunday broadcast of CBS-TV's "60 Minutes" that the OSI learned of such a coverup during its own investigation, which began in 1979, and in "several cases" the OSI was victimized by it.

Loftus said in an interview yesterday that although there was "substantial" cooperation with most Justice Department requests for information, in some instances "the FBI refused to locate files for us and flatly refused to confirm which of our suspects were their informants."

Loftus charged on "60 Minutes" that the smuggling of Nazi collaborators proceeded against the orders of two US Presidents - and that federal investigatory agencies continued to cover it up as recently as 1978 during a congressional investigation.

In a telephone interview yesterday, Ryan declined to comment on Loftus' allegations. He said, "To the best of my knowledge, no files were withheld from us [the Justice Department]. . . . We still intend to pursue our investigations. If the evidence is there, we will prosecute."

Ryan said his staff is investigating 202 cases of Nazi collaborators living in the United States. Since 1979, he said, 26 cases have been filed in federal court seeking deportation of Nazis. Guilty verdicts have been won in nine of the cases and the remainder are pending.

The State Department said yesterday it was reviewing files that may bear on Loftus' allegations.

The OSI was created in 1979 by President

Jimmy Carter to prosecute and deport Nazis who may have slipped into the country since World War II.

According to Loftus, more than 300 Nazi collaborators from Soviet Byelorussia are living in this country, some still working for the government and quasi-governmental groups.

He charged they were allowed in by the State Department, the FBI and the Department of Defense in exchange for intelligence information about the Soviet Union. Spokesmen for those agencies have declined comment.

At a press conference yesterday, Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), a member of the House subcommittee on investigations, repeated his earlier demand for a congressional inquiry into the matter. Frank said that he would call upon the House subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees or International Law to hold hearings and called for the declassification of pertinent documents.

Rep. Romano L. Mazzoli (D-Ky.), chairman of the subcommittee, said yesterday that he would support such hearings.